



SEPTEMBER 2008

# STEVENS COUNTY FSA NEWS

## Stevens County FSA

232 Williams Lake Rd  
Colville, WA 99114-9638  
(509) 685-0858  
Fax (509) 684-1982

## Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Executive Director

Martin A. Cunningham

## Farm Loan Manager

Steve King (509) 924-7350

## County Committee

John H. Steele - Chairperson  
Doug Falstad - Vice Chair.  
Bruce Stumpf – Reg. Member  
Gayla McCanna - Advisor

## Web Sites

National:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

WA State:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Direct and Countercyclical Program

Contracts for the Direct and Countercyclical Program must be signed and returned by September 30, 2008. With only a few weeks to go, several Stevens County producers still have contracts out for signature. If you have not returned your contracts, keep in mind that the final deadline of September 30, 2008 is a statutory deadline and cannot be extended.

Final payments for this program will be issued in October of 2008.

## New Permanent Disaster Programs

Past disaster assistance programs were legislated by congress after the occurrence of major disasters somewhere in the United States. Due to tight budgets, finding funding for the programs has become increasingly difficult for legislators. In answer to this problem, the 2008 Farm Bill created permanent disaster assistance programs that will be available every year for the life of the new Farm Bill.

That sounds good, but this permanent assistance comes with a catch: in order to be eligible for the programs you must have crop insurance or Noninsured Assistance Program coverage on every crop on your farm. On a farm with wheat and barley for grain, oat hay, alfalfa, and pasture, the wheat and barley would be covered by crop insurance purchased from a private provider, and the oat hay, alfalfa, and pasture would be covered by the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). The crop insurance will cost a minimum of \$250 per crop for a very basic policy. The Noninsured Assistance coverage will cost you \$250 per crop, with a maximum fee of \$750 per county.

For 2008, those that wish to be eligible for the new programs but do not have the proper coverage will have until September 16, 2008 to pay a fee equivalent to what crop insurance and NAP coverage would have cost. You will not actually receive coverage, but paying the fee will make you eligible for the new programs. If you feel you incurred a major loss during 2008, you should probably use the buy-in provision by September 16, 2008.

For 2009 and subsequent crop years, all crops on all farms in all counties must have either crop insurance or NAP coverage purchased by the application closing dates in order to be eligible for supplemental disaster programs.

So, what are these new programs?

One of the new programs is called SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program). At this time, all the program regulations for SURE are not known. We do know that it is a whole farm revenue based program (not an individual crop loss program). The SURE program will be available to eligible producers on farms in disaster counties designated by the Secretary, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production or quality losses during the crop year. The calculation for benefits involves what the farm's potential revenue should be compared to what its actual revenue was.

Another new program is the Livestock Forage Program. Very little is known about this program, but it is assumed that it will replace



programs like the Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Assistance Programs that have been so popular with cattle producers. You must have NAP coverage on your pastures to qualify for this program.

### **Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) 2009**

For 2009, the fee for NAP policies has been increased from \$100, to \$250 per crop with a limit of \$750 per county. The sales closing date for forage crops which would have been September 30, 2008 has been moved back to December 1, 2008. Although the final date is extended, coverage for NAP crops will not take effect until 30 days after the application has been filed or the crop has been planted. It is a good idea to make your application as soon as possible to have your crops covered.

### **Crop Insurance for 2009**

The final date to purchase a crop insurance policy for wheat is September 30, 2008. Do not miss this deadline if you will seed wheat for harvest in 2009 and are interested in the SURE program.

### **Signature Authority for Spouses**

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. A spouse may not, however, sign a Power of Attorney on behalf of the spouse, nor may they sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for entities. Spouses must also have Power of Attorney forms on file to sign for claim settlements such as promissory notes.

### **October is Payment Month**

Payments for both the Conservation Reserve Program and Direct and Countercyclical Program will be paid in October. Have you made changes to your checking account or changed banks in the last year? Please notify the Farm Service Agency of any banking changes that you have made. Remember that FSA payments are direct deposited to the last account you have on file with us. Don't make it impossible for your payments to find you.

### **Assigning Program Payments to Third-parties**

At your request, FSA will issue all or a portion of your program payment to a third-party (assignee), such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any assignee with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and assignee communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the assignee.

FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. However, FSA will only pay the assignee to the extent the producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of a payment intended to go to the other, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences. If you would like to sign up for an Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact our office.